



ROTARY CLUB OF SANDPOINT

May 27, 2011

Sandy Compton, Program Coordinator
Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
PO Box 2061
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Dear Sandy,

Thank you so much for coming to the Rotary Club of Sandpoint's meeting and giving a fantastic presentation about the Scotchman Peaks. It was stunning to many of our members to learn there was something so beautiful right in our own backyard.

Many of our members have made the climb and seen first hand the incredible vistas, as well as being able to comprehend how important it is to preserve this area. But the rocks are only the melody, the harmony are the fauna: Martens, Ermine, Lynx, Wolverine and Mountain Goat call this wilderness home, animals most people have never seen and never will unless someone protects them. The harmony is also the flora, the violet Monkshood, Mountain Maple scarlet and the Mariposa lily. This wilderness symphony is completed by the mighty Ross Creek Cedars, 10' wide and older than the United States.

Our members, indeed, most of the citizens of Sandpoint, have a direct and close relationship with this land, a quality that works quietly inside us to allow the "better angels of our nature" to have full voice. We are continually inspired and fulfilled by the mountains here, even if we don't realize it's happening. What would we be like without them?

The Rotary Club of Sandpoint would celebrate the designation of the Scotchman Peaks as a wilderness area, to be protected and managed for our children's children. We must, as a people, have the courage to act rightly today to solve the problems of tomorrow; our members can look at the Peaks and say, "That place is special. That place is worth the cost and effort of protection."

Now we need our leaders to see this as well.

Thank you to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks for trying to make people see what is worth saving. Thank you for your diligence, your sacrifice, and your passion for this beautiful area.

Matthew Kerr,
President, Rotary Club of Sandpoint, Idaho 2010-2011